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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1863 May 12

Thomas W. Cahill

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Recommended Citation

Cahill, Thomas W., "Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1863 May 12" (1863). *Col. Thomas W. Cahill Civil War Letters*. 42.
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New Orleans May 12th 1863

My Dear Wife

I have to day left in the Express Office a package containing one thousand dollars in D & G Green Backs & ~~about~~ three dollars in new ~~new~~ money; I took a receipt for one thousand and dollars on which you will pay freight & insurance amounting to 15 \$ I hated to risk so large an amount "for us" without insuring; nothing new has occurred since my last I have taken my old place in command of the City but have not much to do as nearly all my command are on detached "Protest Duty" so I escape easy times Col Farr of the 26th Mass who took my place did not like to give it up. but I thought I would take it; The Genl has recovered and is about he is writing to his ^{wife} he has not had any letters from home & tel lately I tell him

he does not deserve any; as he seldom
writes himself. he excuses himself for
not writing to me by saying he did
not wish to lead me astray by any
remarks of his; My six months pay
to 30th April 1868 amounted to [#]1144.30
so I have 144 with me, and as while I
am detached from my Regiment I can
draw my pay every two months, I think
I have enough and to spare; The men
& Officers of the Regt. are all well
Terence Logan goes home to morrow
in the Matangas as also a man named
Dennis Brennan of Capt J. G. Healy's Co. I will
probably send this by Logan; The Arch
Bishop called on me to day & as I was
out left his Card; I have called upon
him once and this I suppose was in return
I have written to Father Haast describing
Church affairs please say to him that the
French Priest who preaches such strong
abolition sermons is named Lemaître

not Maest and wrote him, I have no
thing new to write about we are receiving
very contradictory stories from Hooker's
Army in Virginia; yesterday the Secesh
Papers had Hooker badly defeated &
half his Army prisoners to day our
papers has it just exactly the other way
and all Jacksons Rebels killed & prison-
ers so we do not know what to believe
though we hardly dare hope for much good
from Virginia; we hear good news so
far from who has got in behind our
old spot at Grand Gulf and so far
seems to harass the rebels badly
some of our boats have been amusing
themselves bombarding Port Hudson
without eliciting a reply; it is po-
ssible they may be concentrating
against Grant to overwhelm him
he is in some what a precarious po-
sition in the heart of the Enemies Country
unless he can live by foraging on them.

Banks seems to be having things
his own way in Louisiana so far
he has gone over an immense
amount of Country with very little
fighting I do not see what is going
to feed Port Hudson & Vicksburg
and it seems to me they must fall un-
less we have serious reverses to our arm-
ies in the front. I have not heard
from Major Maher yet & have not
written him as I really do not know
precisely where to direct it to him only that
he is some where about the La Fourche
Capt Reily is sick in the St James Hos-
pital but I believe is getting along well
The weather is delightful here so
far being much cooler than it was
last year at this time
The Regiment are jealous of me and
am not at their head; but I think
it just as well for me where I am
as long as I can stick to it as I am
not likely to be sent off on the con-
tinual little scouting expeditions
here & there although there is some
fun in them after all. Capt Mayo
has managed to furnish me a
splendid bay horse since I have
been gone it would be worth a
goat three hundred if I had him
he is a splendid saddle horse
I am in some hopes the Dr will get a chance
to run home although it is doubtful as
good Physicians are scarce here, give
my respects to all Enquiry friends. No
news from John Carney yet
Give my love to Ellen & Miss Babes as usual
for me your loving husband W H Child